Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 17 Mar 2021 until 23:59 on Thursday 18 Mar 2021

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 17 Mar 2021 at 02:11

Confidence: High for mainly dry and settled conditions. Medium for cloud amounts.

Headline for Wednesday 17 Mar 2021: Dry and bright. Windy over the summits.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 17 Mar 2021

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy Snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** No Likelihood	**Poor visibility** No Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Cloudy	Cloudy	Sunny	Sunny intervals	Cloudy	Cloudy
Precipitation probability					
00%	00%	00%	00%	00%	10%

Forecast for Wednesday 17 Mar 2021

Weather: Dry with high cloud giving some hazy sunshine. Some patchy lower cloud in the afternoon. Cloud thickens in the evening. A cool breeze on the tops.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 90% or more.

Visibility: Very good or excellent, no significant cloud expected.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Wednesday 17 Mar 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	35/40 N	35/41 N	26/33 N	15/20 N	14/17 N	13/16 N	12/15 N
600	15/19 NW	19/28 N	20/26 N	13/17 N	10/14 N	8/12 NW	9/14 NW
300	1/19 NW	5/26 N	10/23 N	7/16 N	3/13 N	2/11 NW	4/13 NW
Valley	5/24 NW	9/28 N	11/23 N	5/13 N	2/10 N	2/8 NW	2/7 NW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	5/-1	4/-4	2/-5	3/-1	3/-1	2/-2	3/-1
600	4/-1	4/-2	4/-1	6/2	5/2	4/1	4/0
300	4/4	6/4	7/4	9/8	7/6	6/5	5/4
Valley	7/6	8/5	9/7	11/10	9/9	8/7	7/6
Freezing Level*	900m	1000m	1100m	1200m	1300m	2000m	2000m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Nothing further to add.

Forecast for Thursday 18 Mar 2021

Weather: Occasional low cloud and mist possible overnight and during the morning, otherwise dry and bright with some sunny spells.

Maximum wind: North or Northwest 20 to 25mph.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 50% becoming 90% by the afternoon.

Visibility: Mostly very good, but moderate or poor in any early low cloud and mist. Occasional or extensive cloud, base 600m or less, lifting and clearing.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 2 Celsius rising 15 Celsius
At 800m: Plus 5 to 8 Celsius
Freezing level: Above the summits.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 16 March 2021 Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:20 Full report: We are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people undertaking their daily local exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally, not leaving the village, town or city where they live. There has been a turbo thaw at all levels over the past 24 hours with overnight rain and a summit temperature at midday of plus 4 degrees. The thaw has been most marked below 800m. The snow level has now risen to 650m; however even above this height large areas of the fells up to and including summit level are now free from snow. That stated, a significant amount of snow still remains especially above 800m in sheltered spots and hollows and on predominantly, but far from exclusively, north and east facing aspects where above 900m there are drifts deep enough to swallow a 60cm ice axe, although such depth is the exception. The snowpack was very soft and wet and laborious when having to trudge through it. There are cornices above, again mainly but not exclusively, N and E facing slopes. Although reducing in size with the thaw, they also consist of soft, wet and extremely unstable snow – some having slumped over the past 24 hours - so please keep well clear of such edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise; indeed on the Helvellyn summit plateau there are footprints far, far too close to the corniced edge. Exposed routes above the snowline, such as Striding and Swirral Edges, are in mixed condition. Their crests are largely bare rock; however both exits are guarded with unavoidable deep, steep banks of snow. Today, this was soft snow and only an ice axe was required to safely negotiate them. However, given their altitude, it would only take a marginal drop in temperature (currently forecast overnight) for the snow to harden and ice to return so anyone attempting such routes must be experienced in winter mountaineering and equipped with both ice axe and crampons. With a summit wind chill below freezing, full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. Excellent navigation is required when deep snow obscuring landmarks is combined with low cloud as paths cannot simply be followed. Please be conservative with your plans and know both your limits and also when to turn back. A pandemic is not the time to be pushing your comfort zone. Temperature: plus 4.1 C Maximum wind speed 34.1 mph Wind chill: minus 3.9 C Average wind speed: 18.0 mph

Issued at: 02:11 on Wed 17 Mar 2021

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